

Message Text

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 1 LNE 10)

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TAGS: OVIP (GERALD R. FORD)

SUBJECT: BACKGROUND DATA FOR BOOKS

REFERENCE: MELROSE/ANGULO TELCON OF JULY 21, 1975

DEPARTMENT FOR A/O AND PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR ADVANCE OFFICE
AND NORMAL EUROPEAN TRIP DISTRIBUTION

1. HERE FOLLOWS REQUESTED DATA:

AMERICAN CHILDRENS' HOSPITAL

THE 320-BED AMERICAN CHILDRENS' HOSPITAL, OFFICIALLY
REFERRED TO AS THE PEDIATRIC INSTITUTE OF THE KRAKOW
MEDICAL ACADEMY, FIRST OPENED ITS DOORS IN 1966. THE
KRAKOW MEDICAL ACADEMY IS HEADED BY RECTOR TADEUSZ
POPIELA, WHILE THE HOSPITAL ITSELF IS CURRENTLY UNDER
THE DIRECTION OF PROFESSOR BARBARA KANSKA. THE HOSPITAL
WAS BUILT CHIEFLY WITH AMERICAN AID FUNDS GENERATED BY
PL-480 SALES WITH THE TOTAL INITIAL US GOVERNMENT
CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROJECT AMOUNTING TO SOME 10,470,000
DOLLARS. (THE POLISH GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTED A TOTAL OF
NEARLY ONE MILLION DOLLARS IN LAND AND SERVICES). CON-
GRESSIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE PROJECT WERE USED TO
PURCHASE THE MOST MODERN EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE, MOST OF
IT FROM THE UNITED STATES. FOR EXAMPLE, THE HOSPITAL
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IS EQUIPPED WITH A SUITE OF MODERN OPERATING ROOMS, AN
UP-TO-DATE RESEARCH AND DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY, AND ITS
FACILITIES INCLUDE MODERN X-RAY EQUIPMENT IN ADDITION
TO MORE STANDARD ITEMS SUCH AS STERILIZERS, OXYGEN

EQUIPMENT, ELEVATORS, AIR CONDITIONERS, POWER GENERATORS AND KITCHEN AND LAUNDRY FACILITIES. THE HOSPITAL DOES MORE THAN PROVIDE MEDICAL CARE FOR CHILDREN. IT SERVES AS AN IMPORTANT ON-SITE CENTER FOR STUDENT RESEARCH AND IS AN IMPORTANT REGIONAL RESEARCH CENTER IN PEDIATRICS RESEARCH. IT MAINTAINS CLOSE CONTACTS WITH RESEARCH CENTERS ALL OVER THE WORLD AND HAS PARTICULARLY CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE PHILADELPHIA CHILDRENS' HOSPITAL IN THE UNITED STATES.

IN JULY, 1974, THE NEW RESEARCH WING OF THE HOSPITAL OFFICIALLY OPENED. FUTURE PLANS ENVISION FURTHER EXTENSION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE HOSPITAL AND AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED ON JOINT US-POLISH FUNDING OF A REHABILITATION FACILITY.

AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU CONCENTRATION CAMP (OSWIECIM-BRZEZINKA)

SET UP IN 1940 IN THE VICINITY OF THE SMALL INDUSTRIAL TOWN OF OSWIECIM, AUSCHWITZ (OSWIECIM) ENJOYS THE INFAMY OF BEING THE WORST OF THE NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMPS. AMONG THEIR FOUR MILLION VICTIMS, THE SS PERSONNEL OF THIS MOST-HATED OF THE NAZI CAMPS MURDERED JEWS AND NON-JEWS ALIKE FROM ALL OVER OCCUPIED EUROPE. PRISONERS WERE EITHER WORKED TO DEATH (AUSCHWITZ WAS BEGUN A FORCED-LABOR CAMP) OR SIMPLY SLAUGHTERED IN THE CAMP'S TERRIBLY EFFICIENT GAS CHAMBERS. AT THE WAR'S CLOSE, THE CAMP'S COMMANDANT RUDOLF HESS WAS CAPTURED IN GERMANY AND SUBSEQUENTLY TURNED OVER TO POLISH AUTHORITIES. HE HIMSELF WAS SENTENCED TO DEATH AND SUFFERED THE IGNOMINY OF BEING HUNG IN THE SHADOWS OF THE CREMATORIUMS WHERE SO MANY INNOCENT PEOPLE -- MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN -- MET THEIR UNTIMELY AND TRAGIC DEATHS.

AUSCHWITZ IS NOW A NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE POLISH PEOPLE AND IS VISITED BY TENS OF THOUSANDS EACH YEAR. IN ADJACENT UNCLASSIFIED

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BIRKENAU, A MONUMENT COMMEMORATING THE DEAD OF THE CAMP HAS BEEN ERECTED ON THE VERY SPOT WHERE MILLIONS OF INCOMING PASSENGER WERE PROCESSED INTO THE CAMP TO MEET THEIR TRAGIC FATES. IT IS HOPED THAT THE CAMP WILL SERVE AS A FITTING ETERNAL MEMORIAL TO THE HORRORS OF WAR AND THE INNUMERABLE VICTIMS OF ITS CRUELTY.

WAWEL CASTLE

THE CASTLE DERIVES ITS NAME FROM THE HISTORIC WAWEL HILL ON WHICH IT IS SITUATED. THE OLDEST PARTS OF THE CASTLE DATE FROM THE 9TH CENTURY, ALTHOUGH THE BEST PRESERVED PORTIONS ARE FROM THE "GOLDEN AGE OF POLAND", THAT IS THE RENAISSANCE PERIOD OF THE 15TH CENTURY. DURING THE REIGN OF SIGISMUND I, THE COURTYARD WITH ITS GRACEFUL

ARCHES WAS CONSTRUCTED. THE INFLUENCE OF ITALIAN ARCHITECT IS UNMISTAKEABLE AND IT IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT SIGISMUND'S WIFE, AN ITALIAN PRINCESS, MADE HER DESIRES FELT IN THE CASTLE'S CONSTRUCTION.

ALTHOUGH KRAKOW CEASED TO BE THE CAPITAL OF POLAND IN THE 17TH CENTURY WHEN THAT HONOR WAS TRANSFERRED TO WARSAW, THE CATHEDRAL CONTINUED TO BE USED FOR CORONATION CEREMONIES UNTIL THE END OF THE POLISH MONARCHY IN THE LAST DECADE OF THE 18TH CENTURY. THE MAIN CATHEDRAL IS SURROUNDED BY 18 MINATURE CHAPELS REPRESENTING A NUMBER OF SCHOOLS OF ARCHITECTURE. THE MOST FAMOUS OF THESE IS THE SIGISMUND CHAPEL, WHICH IS A GEM OF RENAISSANCE ARCHITECTURE. THE CATHEDRAL IS FAMOUS FOR ITS SCULPTURED TOMBS OF POLISH KINGS INCLUDING THAT OF JAN SOBIESKI 111 WHO IS RENOWN FOR HAVING AIDED THE AUSTRIANS IN REPELLING THE TURKISH INVASION OF VIENNA IN 1683. SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH THE KINGS REST OTHER NOTED POLISH PERSONALITIES INNTUDING TADEUSZ KOSCIUSZKO, THE NATIONAL HERO OF POLAND AND AN OUTSTANDING REVOLUTIONARY IN THE AMERICAN WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE AND POLAND'S MOST NOTED POETS, ADAM MICKIEWICZ AND JULIUSZ SLOWACIKI.

THE WAWEL ART COLLECTION CONTAINS MANY OUTSTANDING WORKS BUT IS PARTICULARLY RICH IN FLEMISH TAPESTRIES AND

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ENAISSANCE FURNITURE. ONE OF THE MOST HIGHLY VALUED HISTORICAL OBJECTS IS "SZCZERBIEC" -- THE CORONATION SWORD OF POLISH KINGS. THE ROYAL TREASURY CONTAINS MANY ITEMS REFLECTING THE COUNTRY'S RICH HISTORICAL PAST. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST IS THE ORIENTAL COLLECTION, CONTAINING ORIENTAL ARMOUR AND TENTS CAPTURED BY JAN SOBIESKI IN THE BATTLE OF VIENNA.

E KRAKOW CONSULAR DISTRICT

THE CONSULAR DISTRICT, CONSISTING OF TEN PROVINCES (VOIVODSHIPS) INCLUDING THE SPECIAL CITY OF KRAKOW, IS LOCATED IN SOUTHEASTERN POLAND. STRETCHING FROM SILES A IN THE WEST AND TO THE SOVIET BORDER IN THE EAST, ITS TOTAL AREA S BTENEWY SQUARE KILOMETERS, MOST OF IT HILLY OR MOUNTAINOUS. TO THE SOUTH, ON THE CZECHOSLOVAK BORDER, LIE THE BESKIDY AND BIESZKADY MOUNTAINS. ACTUALLY AN EASTERN EXTENSION OF THE ALPS, THESE MOUNTAINS REACH HEIGHTS OF 6,000 FEET IN THE AREA DIRECTLY SOUTH OF KRAKOW.

SLIGHLTY MORE THAN HALF OF THE 9-1/2 MILLION PEOPLE IN THE CONSULAR DISTRICT LIVE ON THE LAND AND EARN A LIVELIHOOD

FROM

AGRICULTURE. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE IN RZESZOW WHICH IS 95 PERCENT AGRICULTURAL. ON THE OTHER HAND, MOST OF THE WORKERS OF KATOWICE ARE EMPLOYED IN THAT PROVINCES MANY MINES AND MILLS. MANY, INCLUDING MOST OF THE AREAS GORALS OR HIGHLANDERS, HAVE RELATIVES IN THE UNITED STATES, FOR KRAKOW AND RZESZOW IN PARTICULAR WERE CENTERS OF THE EMIGRATION TO AMERICA.

THE CITY OF KRAKOW LIES ON THE VISTULA RIVER. IT HAS 230 SQUARE KILOMETERS AND MORE THAN 640,000 INHABITANTS.

THE NAME KRAKOW FIRST APPEARED IN WRITTEN RECORDS IN 965, WHEN THE TOWN WAS ALREADY AN ACTIVE EAST-WEST TRADE CENTER. DESPITE THE TARTAR INVASIONS, DURING ONE OF WHICH THE CITY UNCLASSIFIED

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WAS DESTROYED,

KRAKOW CONTINUED TO GROW AND IN 1320 IT BECAME THE CAPITAL OF POLAND. AT ABOUT THIS TIME, KING CASIMIR THE GREAT OPENED HIS REALM TO THE JEWS AND FOUNDED THE CITY'S UNIVERSITY, THE SECOND OLDEST (AFTER PRAGUE) IN CENTRAL EUROPE.

KRAKOW'S "GOLDEN AGE", HOWEVER, OCCURRED IN THE 15TH AND THE 16TH CENTURIES WHEN, UNDER THE JAGIELLONIAN DYNASTY, THE UNIVERSITY WAS REJUVENATED AND THE ARTS AND SCIENCES ENCOURAGED. WHILE COPERNICUS (KOPERNIK) STUDIED AT THE UNIVERSITY, POLISH AND ITALIAN ARTISTS WERE GIVING THE CITY THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE FLAVOR WHICH CHARACTERIZES IT EVEN TODAY.

FOLLOWING THE TRANSFERENCE OF THE CAPITAL TO WARSAW IN 1595 AND TWO DISASTROUS SWEDISH INVASIONS, DURING WHICH THE CITY WAS BURNED, KRAKOW FELL ON HARD TIMES CULMINATING IN POLAND'S FIRST PARTITION IN 1772. FOR THE NEXT 150 YEARS KRAKOW WAS SUBJECTED TO OCCUPATIONS FIRST BY THE PRUSSIANS AND THEN BY THE AUSTRIANS, WHO FOR A SHORT PERIOD (1815-1846) SHARED THEIR RULE OF THE "REPUBLIC OF KRAKOW" WITH THE PRUSSIANS AND THE RUSSIANS. THERE WAS OPPRESSION DURING THIS PERIOD AND THERE WERE REVOLTS. AUSTRIAN RULE, HOWEVER, WAS RELATIVELY MILD, AND IN THE LATTER PART OF THE 19TH CENTURY KRAKOW FLOURISHED AS A CENTER OF POLISH CULTURE. IT WAS THE ONLY PLACE IN EUROPE WHERE POLISH CIVIL RIGHTS WERE RECOGNIZED. THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL WAS A POLE, AND THE POLISH LANGUAGE WAS USED IN SCHOOLS, COURTS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICES.

FOLLOWING POLAND'S BRIEF PERIOD OF INDEPENDENCE BETWEEN THE WORLD WARS, THE NAZIS OCCUPIED POLAND AND MADE KRAKOW

THE CAPITAL OF THEIR GENERAL GOVERNMENT. ALMOST IMMEDIATELY, PROMINENT CRACOVIAN WERE ARRESTED AND SENT TO CONCENTRATION CAMPS. LATER, THE LARGEST OF THESE CAMPS, AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU (OSWIECIM), WAS CONSTRUCTED 40 KILOMETERS WEST OF THE CITY, WITHIN IT FOUR MILLION PEOPLE, INCLUDING KRAKOW'S ENTIRE JEWISH POPULATION, PERISHED.

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DESPITE THIS HUMAN MISERY, THE CITY WAS NOT SUBJECTED TO THE DESTRUCTION SUFFERED BY OTHER POLISH CITIES. ALTHOUGH KRAKOW RECEIVED ONLY A SMALL SHARE OF POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION FUNDS, A NEW TOWN, NOWA HUTA, WAS BUILT AROUND THE LENIN STEEL WORKS IN 1947 AND EVENTUALLY INCORPORATED WITHIN THE CITY'S LIMITS. THIS PLANT, THE LARGEST OF ITS KIND IN POLAND, AND THE CITY'S CHEMICAL INDUSTRY HAVE CHANGED THE FACE OF KRAKOW. AS A MATTER OF FACT, LIKE JAN JANUS, KRAKOW NOW HAS TWO FACES, ONE IS THAT OF A CALM THOUSAND-YEAR OLD CENTRAL EUROPEAN CULTURE, THE OTHER OF BUSTLING, GRIMY TWENTIETH-CENTURY INDUSTRIALISM.

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